

SPRING IS HERE AND SO ARE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.....4

Vancouver's Cherry Blossom Festival opens at Burrard SkyTrain station, running until April 30

Check us out online at langaravoice.com
This week look for special features on the US ambassador at SFU, an #east-vanlove tweetup and butches on buses. This is the last Voice of the spring term. See you in the fall lovelies!

the DAILY Voice

PRODUCED BY LANGARA JOURNALISM STUDENTS

APRIL 5, 2013 • VOL. 45 NO. 23 • VANCOUVER, B.C.



DEANNA CHENG photo

Homeless Dave, in a wheelchair due to his two week hunger strike, and supporters march down to Main Street towards city hall.

Homeless Dave hungers for meet with Mayor over DTES

Amidst increasing gentrification debate in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, activists march to city hall to demand their social justice

By DEANNA CHENG

A former homeless Vancouver man on day 14 of his hunger strike marched from Carnegie Hall to city hall, delivering a list of demands to Mayor Gregor Robertson.

"Homeless Dave" is on a hunger strike protesting against gentrification in the Downtown Eastside, as well as being the architect behind the ongoing protests at Pigeon

"No level of government is listening to us. They're approving condo developments as this is happening," he said.

The protest began at Main and Hastings and finished at city hall, where Dave slipped a list of his demands under the door of the mayor's office.

About 30 protestors marched their way up Main Street and down Broadway, banging drums and singing aboriginal prayers.

One of the protestors, Victoria Bull, said, "The only way to improve [the situation] is to provide housing. People need a roof over their heads, even if they have bedbug problems, addictions, or not enough food."

She said the main point of the march was to get the former police station at Main and Hastings turned into social housing with the floor level providing services. "There can be a food store or a health clinic or a daycare."

Currently, the city plans to use the building as a start-up centre for digital media companies, housing servers and other tech installations.

Wilson, who refused to give his last name, is a resident of the neighbourhood and has seen the affects of gentrification. He knew a friend who live in a SRO and had to move out when rent increased by \$150.

"It's kinda backwards," Wilson said. "People usually move from a shelter to a stable residence. Now, people are moving from homes to the shelter."

During the march, occasional cars honked and some drivers waved with a smile. One car, however, honked and screamed, "Get a job!"

Someone from the group pushing Dave's wheelchair said, "This is our job."

"A lot of the residents have little to no income," Wilson said. "They are also mentally ill and it's hard for them

to find a job or find a home because they're seen as stereotypes. No one wants to deal with them."

Penny Ballem, the city manager, addressed the crowd when they started chanting in the hallway.

"The solutions are not easy and involve all level of government. There is still a lot of work to be done."

The crowd booed her, shouting out questions which she did not answer, and calls for homes and peace.

Wendy Pedersen, a DTES resident and former member of the Carnegie Community Action Project, said people have attended meetings, conducted research and participated in city plans in the last 10 years in an attempt to be heard but gentrification is still happening.

He started out at 75 kg and now he's 68.5 kg. "I've lost about [14.33 lbs] over two weeks," Dave said, who is drinking only a Happy Planet a day due to diabetes.

Protestor Kim Hearty, 25, said Dave is weaker but he is still a presence.

"He can't do it much longer and still be Dave. We are getting worried," she said.

Dave's demands

- 1 100% community-directed social housing at Sequel 138 condo site
- 2 100% social housing at former VPD headquarters on Main St with nod to damage to women and aboriginals over years
- 3 That the city declare the Downtown Eastside a "social justice zone" with accomodating policies

Source: dteshungerstrike.blogspot.ca

Lawyer charged for aiding criminals

Historic ruling in case of William Mastop, sentenced one year for helping Greek criminal gang in Vernon

By JESSE ADAMSON

For the first time in Canadian history, a lawyer has been charged with aiding a criminal gang for the benefit of a criminal organization.

Vernon lawyer William Mastop was sentenced to one year in prison after pleading guilty to aiding the notorious Greeks gang, which resulted in the death of two people.

"It was a very long, thorough and detailed judgment," said Crown prosecutor David Jardine. "I thought that they did an admirable job of analyzing the issues. They're difficult issues, it's not a situation that a court has been confronted with in Canada before so there's no real guiding precedence for what to do."

Mastop, 46, surprisingly pleaded guilty in December to charges of participating in the illicit activities of a criminal organization.

On Thursday, Justice Mark McEwan sentenced Mastop to one year in prison with eligibility for day-parole after two months. Crown was seeking up to three years in prison.

"We based that on our analysis of what we thought the appropriate disposition would be, said Jardine. "We'll have to review these reasons and consider if we think there would be some ground for appeal."

In 2005, Mastop obtained a document related to the police search of the home of John Thom, an associate of the gang. Mastop gave the documents to Greek gang leader Peter Manolakos. The documents contained information about police informants. The Greeks wrongfully believed that one of the informants was Thom's brother, Ron Thom.

Within two weeks Ron Thom was fatally shot by the gang and Manolakos was convicted of first-degree murder. Ron Thom's girlfriend, Belinda Scott, was also murdered. The Greeks are suspected of being involved but no charges have been laid.

Jardine noted that Mastop had no knowledge of the slayings but his actions were "the beginning of the chain of events which led to two deaths."

Mastop's actions have led to him being suspended from practicing law.

"It's an embarrassment to the profession to have a lawyer go so far off the road to become a tool of a criminal organization," said Jardine.



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Vandalism concerns spur on debate

Displacement of low-income residents and existing businesses is a concern for many in the DTES but recent vandalism has sparked a debate

By BRENNIA BROOKS

DTES business owners and residents met last night to discuss safety measures following a recent wave of stolen sandwich boards and smashed windows.

The meeting was put together by the Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association to address the past month's spike of anti-gentrification vandalism.

Several businesses have been vandalized and robbed in the past month, including the high-profile theft of a sandwich board from the Save On Meats diner.

"The normal processes of development do put pressure on low income communities and can have negative consequences, but we can also lever-

age this for positive consequences," said Wes Regan, executive director for Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association.

A meeting was held last night at the Lost and Found café on West Hastings for residents, businesses and community organizations in the area to collaborate on ways to keep their streets safe.

Discussions took place on community relations and the different partnerships that have emerged, such as the Pigeon Park Street Market.

Regan said the BIA understands there are issues in the area and that in running a pro-business organization, he understands housing is needed.

"This is a predominantly low income, but mixed community and we're

also concerned about displacement of residents and of existing businesses," he said. "If we are going to have a diverse community where we have low income residents living alongside higher income earners, we also have to respect the fact that we should have a strategy in place to ensure that we have a range of business types that are able to accommodate, serve and employ a mixed community."

Judy McGuire, executive director of Inner-City Safety Society, believes that community safety is about community development.

"It's about working in a place that makes way from the ground up with everybody who's in your community so that you can not only keep people safe but you can train them how to be safe,"

she said.

But conflict remains between anti-gentrification activists and businesses in the DTES community.

"The biggest social problem in Vancouver does not have an elected official responsible for it," said Jack Jardine, who works at the Pigeon Park Street Market.

Jardine said the conflict could start to be resolved when someone with political power is directly responsible for the area and for businesses to help the community by continuing to hire residents from the Downtown East Side.

Over the next year businesses and organizations, like Mission Possible and Hastings Crossing BIA, will be working on preventative safety measures in the area.

"The Biggest social problem in Vancouver does not have an elected official responsible for it"
Jack Jardine

Gen Y meets boomers

Inter-generational climate change panel sparks a debate between generations

By BEN BULMER

Shouts of green-wash came from the audience when BC Liberal candidate Gabby Kalaw justified his party's stance on Liquefied Natural Gas or (LNG) at last night's Bring Your Boomers Election Forum held at the Rio Theatre.

Over 400 people attended the talk on climate change, organised by The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Gen Why Media. A panel of five candidates in the upcoming B.C. Provincial Election answered questions from three prominent young environmentalist as well as questions from the audience.

Liquefied Nature Gas (LNG) was one of the main topics of discussion, as well as B.C.'s 2020 emissions targets and Fracking.

"To me natural gas looks like hundreds of trucks full of sand, chemicals and water," said Caleb Behn who added that it was his native territory in the North-East of B.C. which generated large amounts of B.C.'s income but bears the price of environmental destruction.

The documentary film maker continued to say that 95 per cent of Fort Nelson First Nations Territory has been sold for LNG production in the last five years.

BC NDP environmental critic Rob Fleming was criticized by the panel for not giving a definite answer on his party's stance on the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion. Sixteen-year-old Sam Harrison from Kids for Climate Change received large amounts of support from the audience for his knowledgeable and direct questioning of the candidate's. Harrison questioned the BC Liberals stance on LNG and accused the party of neglecting renewable energy development in favour of LNG.

The Green Party's Jane Sterk said her party is committed to the 2020 emission's target as well as opposing the Kinder Morgan expansion. Sterk also announced that if her party are successful it would increase the carbon tax from \$10 to \$50 a ton.

BC Conservative candidate Duane Nickull distanced his party several times from the federal conservatives and proposed investment into geothermal energy.



CREATIVE COMMONS photo

Rioters destroyed parts of downtown Vancouver following the last game of the Stanley Cup playoffs. Reproscutions are still being felt.

Stanley Cup rioter found guilty

Spencer Kirkwood is the first to go on trial for rioting during the Stanley Cup playoffs in 2011, a Vancouver provincial court judge found him guilty on all three charges, drunkenness not a defense

By JESSE ADAMSON

Spencer Kirkwood the first person to go on trial in the Stanley Cup riots was found guilty Thursday on three separate charges in the 2011 Stanley Cup riots.

Kirkwood pleaded not-guilty to counts of participating in a riot, mischief and breach of bail, because he said he was too drunk to remember the events of that night.

A Vancouver provincial court judge disagreed and found him guilty on all three charges.

A visibly upset Kirkwood emerged from the courthouse and declined to speak with reporters.

Kirkwood's lawyer, Jonathan Waddington, expressed his displeasure with the decision.

"I'm disappointed," said Waddington. "The issue was, is [being drunk] a defense in this particular crime? [The judge] said, I don't have to make that decision because I don't think he was drunk enough for that to rise as a defense."

Kirkwood was caught on tape using a street barricade to smash the windows of the Telus building in downtown Vancouver.

"The onus is on all of us to make good judgments, but sometimes we don't," Waddington said. "Some people do drink too much and make bad judgments."

But those judgments aren't always criminal and sometimes when you make a mistake like that, and you're drunk, it is a defense to certain crimes in the criminal code."

Kirkwood confessed his actions to police two days after the riot. He had received a threatening phone call from an anonymous man who had seen him on tape.

Kirkwood now awaits his sentencing.

"A non-jail sentence, that's what I'll be asking for," Waddington said. "There's going to be a pre-sentence report and she'll make a decision after that."

"Many of you saw him on video, and you saw a person who was completely remorseful with what he had seen he had done," Waddington continued. "In my opinion, this is an extremely remorseful individual."

The damage to the Telus building caused by Kirkwood and others cost \$10,337 in repairs.

Stanley Cup Riot

- Several participants in the riots have turned themselves in to police after their faces were broadcast on TV
- More than 1,000,000 photos and 1,200 - 1,600 hours of video recorded by citizens have been sent to the Vancouver Police Department as evidence.



PATRICK COLVIN photo

Diana Cuellar (left) and Becky Salmon (right) stand with acclaimed author and playwright Carmen Aguirre.

Revolutionary speaks to class

Langara grad, and Chilean resistance fighter, returns to campus

CARMEN aguirre

By PATRICK COLVIN

MOST NOTABLE WORK:

Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter

* Book selected for 2012 edition of CBC Radio's *Canada Reads*

OTHER WORKS:

Has written over 20 stage plays to date: which includes *In a Land Called I Don't Remember*, *Chile Con Carne*, *The Trigger* and *The Refugee Hotel*

Not many students know what it is like to live under the reign of a brutal dictator – let alone take up arms as a revolutionary to fight against one – but honoured Langara alumna Carmen Aguirre does.

Yesterday she shared that experience in a presentation with Langara's Latin American cultural perspectives class.

Carmen Aguirre, a Studio 58 graduate, is a celebrated theatre artist who has been involved in over 20 plays as well as multiple film and television productions.

Her award winning 2012 memoir, *Something Fierce*, outlines her experience in the Chilean resistance movement where she fought against the brutal regime of Augusto Pinochet.

Her presentation began with a reading from her memoir.

The section she chose centered around words repeated by a fellow resistance fighter during a turbulent train ride through Peru: "any experience is good."

When asked what those words meant to her, Aguirre replied, "They mean everything happens for a reason, no matter what you go through, you were meant to go through it, and you will learn something from it."

Students not only learned a great deal from Aguirre's book, they really enjoyed it.

"I'm from South America myself . . . I love it, I just loved the book," said student Diana Cuellar.

Classmate Becky Salmon shared a similar sentiment.

"It was fantastic, I just hammered

through it," said Salmon, adding, "it was so inspiring . . . it was like meeting a movie star."

Aguirre is currently writing a follow up to *Something Fierce* while continuing to work on television and theatre projects.

"I'm always very inspired by young people, I feel energized whenever I do a presentation with young people," said Aguirre.

"I have a soft spot for Langara because I did graduate from here, those were very important years of my life."

When asked how she would define her experience at Langara, Aguirre replied with a laugh, "earth shattering."

Some of her other notable works include *In a Land Called I Don't Remember*, *the Trigger* and *the Refugee Hotel*.

They are available at the Vancouver Public Library.

Picking up the phone could mean work

Employment expert says forget email, a phone call shows more initiative

By MARIE-ANDREE DEL CID

Working a summer job is an excellent way for students to prove to future employers that they're interested in a particular field and ready to work.

Most employers who hire for the summer start recruiting as soon as possible and sometimes don't advertise it, which means student's need to act quickly.

"Spread your net as wide as you possibly can," said vice-president of Hunt Personnel, Greg Colborne.

He recommended students begin by looking for employment opportunities within their social circles like family

and friends. Depending on what industry a student wants to work in, generally, there are various locations where a person can look.

"I would suggest using the Internet to find opportunities and contacts of people you should be giving your resume to," Colborne said.

"Find out who does the hiring and get your resume directly to them."

"It . . . doesn't always have to be a job posting that is on a job board, do your own legwork as well," he added.

Colborne also said to follow up with a phone call two or three days afterwards, just to make sure they received your resume and to see if there is anything happening.

"Following up with a phone call is much better than an email because it shows drive and initiative," said Colborne.

"You have to let them know that you

are interested. You may not get to that person directly and you might end up with a voice mail but that separates you from everyone else who just relied on email," he said.

Phone calls are the harder way, but the harder way always gets better results, and that is anything in life said Colborne.

Attending networking events that either schools or companies hold for job opportunities is also a great way for students to meet new people and possibly land a job, said Employment Office shortlisting specialist Jessica Humbler.

"It is a good way to get your name out there," said Humbler. "You can also check out jobscanada.com, [Monster](http://Monster.com) and applyfirst.ca," she said.

The worst time to apply for any job is usually during breaks. That's when everyone is on vacation said Humbler.

LOOKING for work

- Pick up the telephone
- Use the Internet and reach out to family and friends for job opportunities
- Attend networking events put on by schools and companies
- Try to contact employer directly

Crumpled paper focus of art gallery

Langara design formation grads will show off their skills at next week's show

By JES CUNNINGHAM

The theme is crumpled paper and deformation.

Next Thursday, Langara will be hosting its first ever Creative Arts Pop-Up Gallery to display the work of this year's design formation graduates.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and there is no cost to attend.

"It looks interesting, and given our budget, [crumpled paper is] accessible," said student Bjorn Rieder.

In fact, Reider said it was paper dresses that got him into the program two years ago.

Maddy Adams, one of this year's graduates, plans to be featuring her portfolio including some personal works, but mostly graphic designs, conceptual interior spaces and photography.

Each of the graduating artists will be given an individual panel to display their work.

"This is going to be an environment where everyone shines," Adams said. "[Crumpled paper and deformation] is the unifying theme, but everyone gets a chance to be individuals."

We want to "make everyone forget that this is the school," said Yvan Morissette, workshop attendant.

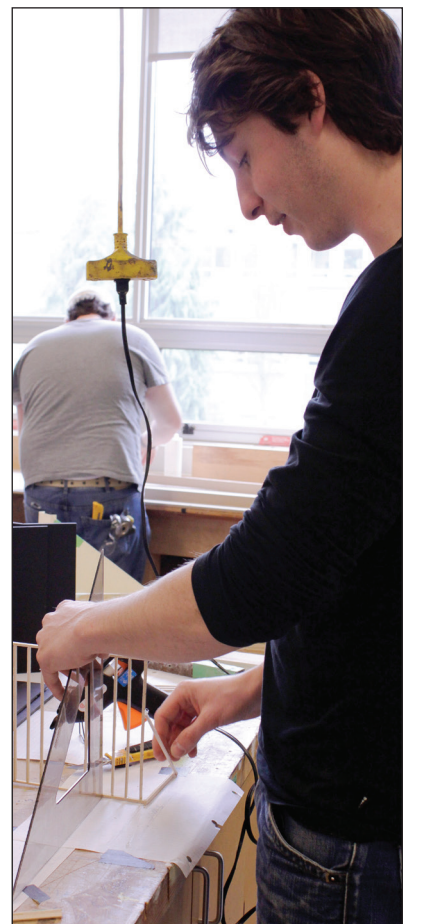
"We are designing a space within a space."

The department has installed new track lighting in the foyer and plans to change the appearance of the floor, as well as putting up a large sign and curtains in the entryway.

Everything is put together by the "3D team," which is in charge of a large portion of the decorations and design of the foyer.

The gallery idea was thought of before Christmas break, but it wasn't until January when the department decided to proceed.

"It's exciting, and gives them a chance to interpret the design process," said Morissette. "Our goal is to make it more interesting and target the professionals."



JES CUNNINGHAM photo

Student Bjorn Reider hard at work.

Newberry popular at Rickshaw

Folk singer and poet plays some songs inspired by the Downtown Eastside at the Rickshaw Theatre

By **GARIN FAHLMAN**

For a brief moment, the cry of a violin stops and David Newberry strums his guitar. “Now we all walk around in Jack Kerouac’s coat, preaching the dharma from a packet of smokes,” he sings. There is music coming from the Rickshaw Theatre, but the stage is empty.

On Wednesday night, the tiny lobby of the Rickshaw held a small but enthusiastic crowd spread out across benches, stools and the floor to watch an intimate performance by local roots musician David Newberry.

Newberry is a singer and poet who wasn’t introduced to the guitar until he was 20. While he was working at a construction job, he injured his hand, and his doctor recommended learning an instrument as therapy. “Ten years later, I released my first album,” he said.

Newberry’s talent as a musician was something he learned, but his gift as a lyricist is something he’s been nurturing his entire life. “I’m always trying to write as much as possible,” he said. “It’s the best way I’ve found to express myself. I always have a notebook, and I like to observe the world around me and record my thoughts.”

Newberry’s songs are full of beautifully written stories that come from real places. “And after the car crash, something had to give. It was the morphine drip, that made you want to live,” he sings in one song.

The inspiration comes from a man Newberry used to know. “After getting out of the hospital, he got hooked on morphine and ended up on the Downtown Eastside,” he said. “After a few years, he started getting his life back together and ended up working at one of the shelters that had taken him in, started working his way up the ladder. And then suddenly, he died.”

Newberry played with a band called the Tigermonths, who are local musicians he’s met over the years. “I make a point of never doing the same thing twice,” he said. “These aren’t the same people that appear on the records.”

A violin, double bass and an organ were all used during the show.

By the end of Newberry’s short set, the crowd at the Rickshaw said they had seen something special. “I’ve never heard anything like it,” said Craig Sinclair, who attended the show with his wife.

Admission to the show was by donation, with proceeds going to Wish drop-in centre for female survivor sex workers.



GARIN FAHLMAN photo

David Newberry performs at the Rickshaw Theatre on April 4.



KRISTEN HARPULA photo

Hundreds of participants gathered for the opening of the Cherry Blossom Festival on April 4. The event included sushi-making demonstrations, an umbrella dance and free dance lessons.

Hundreds gather for Cherry Jam Concert

Festival includes haikus, sushi and umbrellas

By **KRISTEN HARPULA**

Hundreds of people gathered under the canopy of flowers at Burrard SkyTrain Station yesterday for the opening of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

The festival, which runs until April 30, kicked off with Cherry Jam Downtown. The event includes sushi-making demonstrations from some of the best Japanese chefs in the Lower Mainland, an umbrella dance performed by the Shiamak Dance team and free dance lessons.

“[The festival] is a way to celebrate the beauty and joy these flowers bring to everyone,” said Linda Poole, the festival’s founder.

It’s a way to express gratitude for the generous gift of more than 30,000 cherry blossom trees given to Vancouver from Japan in the 1930s, she said.

The Cherry Blossom Festival started in 2005.

Haiku writing is a big part of the festival. Participants from around the world have submitted their own poems, and winners are published online.

Winning haikus from past festivals have been attached to the hundreds of balloons floating overhead for people to take.

Another notable feature of the festival was the popular bento boxes that the crowd devoured.

More than 500 pre-ordered bento boxes include some of the delicacies created at the festival’s chef demonstration.

“It’s a lot different from the usual bento box that you’d find downtown,” said Nova Hanen, who was part of the crowd at the festival. “It’s very exotic.”

For those who aren’t able to make it to the Cherry Jam, the Sakura Days Japanese Fair is being held this weekend at VanDusen Garden.

The two-day festival will feature hands-on workshops with everything from origami to flower arranging, which is also known as ikebana.

“It’s a way to celebrate Japanese culture,” said volunteer Maggie Wei. “And there’s also going to be a lot of food.”

There will also be a large-scale umbrella dance performed at the Vancouver Art Gallery on April 13.

EVENTS

SAKURA DAYS

JAPAN FAIR

April 6 and 7
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
VanDusen Botanical Garden

BIKE THE BLOSSOMS

April 27
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Meet at China Creek
South for a free guided bike ride

B.C. BLOSSOM PHOTO CONTEST

April 4 to 30
Email, tweet or instagram your best photo of cherry blossoms to BC BlossomWatch@vcbf.ca or #cherryblossomyvr

The Flame is becoming a popular night for storytellers

Monthly gathering draws a crowd for true stories about people’s lives

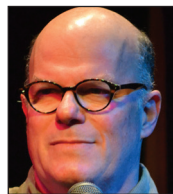
By **ANGELA HOLUBOWICH**

The cozy interior of the Cottage Bistro was packed with boisterous laughter and smiling faces on Wednesday night.

Once a month, the café hosts a gathering of storytellers for a night called The Flame, when people have an opportunity to tell a personal story on stage. The rules are simple: storytellers have five or 10 minutes to tell a true story about themselves. Participants must pitch their stories to the organizers ahead of time.

The crowd was overwhelmed with chatter and laughter, but the moment a storyteller took the microphone, it fell silent. The audience was captivated by the speakers’ personal words and raw emotions.

Veteran actor and acting teacher Andrew Johnston shared his harrowing brush with death as a teenager in a politically torn Quebec.



ANDREW JOHNSTON
Actor and storyteller at The Flame

Compared to the stage and screen, Johnston described his experience with The Flame as “a completely different animal.”

“It’s not a rehearsed thing, it’s not a directed thing and it’s personal,” Johnston said. “It’s a bit more raw and risky than doing a play, or assuming a character or doing a role in a film.”

Retired teacher Lee Weinstein told the story of one of his first memories about being a four-year-old boy who was duped into kissing the beloved family dog by his older brother.

“I used to be a comedian, and I wasn’t very good at it,” said Weinstein. “This seems to be something [where] I can have my own voice, and I feel better about it. It was fun.”

Robyn Thomas, a young actress, said she was coaxed into bringing her theatrical style and colourful story to the stage by a chance conversation with a stranger in the library. The stranger turned out to be Deborah Williams, co-creator of The Flame.

“I was nervous for days beforehand because I’m used to being a character, but presenting a story of my personal life was a bit scary,” Thomas said. “It was a good experience getting up there for sure.”



ANGIE HOLUBOWICH photo

The Chuck Wes Band plays prior to the storytelling event on April 4.



SUP Yoga instructor Kristy Wright shows her class the upward facing dog pose.

Photo courtesy of Standup Paddle Vancouver

Board with yoga? Then try this

Yoga and paddleboarding combined into one unique experience

SUP Rentals

1

Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak
352 Lynn Ave, North Vancouver

2

Ecomarine Paddlesport Centres
1700 Beach Ave, English Bay

3

Windsure Adventure Watersports
1300 Discovery Street, Jericho Beach

By JAMES MCLAUGHLIN

There’s a new trend expected to make waves at local beaches this summer called SUP Yoga, a combination of yoga and paddleboarding.

Both paddleboarding, which involves standing on an oversized surfboard and moving along the water using a long paddle, and yoga have been increasing steadily in popularity over the years, but the marriage of the two is something new.

“It’s a great way to build strength and stability and really just have fun on the water,” said Kristy Wright, owner and instructor of Standup Paddle Vancouver. Wright teaches SUP Yoga outdoors from May to September. The rest of the year she teaches at indoor pools.

For those concerned about possible dangers of reaching a meditative state on open water, Wright said there’s no reason to be afraid.

“We choose locations in general that are out of traffic of boats. It’s usually in a calm environment, usually early mornings,” said Wright. She uses anchors filled with beach sand to station the paddleboards as she teaches.

Jeff Hunt, manager of Ecomarine,

“It’s a great way to build strength and stability and really just have fun on the water”

KRISTY WRIGHT
SUP Yoga instructor

said the company’s rental fleet of paddleboards has tripled in the past five years as a response to the sport’s growing popularity. However, he sees SUP Yoga as just another fad.

“If I do a handstand on a paddleboard, it doesn’t automatically make it yoga,” said Hunt, who has a background in competitive gymnastics. “It’s just another way that people can package something to make it easily marketable to the masses. It’s a branding exercise, you know?”

Regardless of how some feel about the idea, parks board chairwoman Sarah Blyth said any watersport that gets people out so they can enjoy the city’s beaches during the fleeting sunny season is probably a good thing.

“I’m for people getting out there and getting exercise and having fun.”

Less is more for this year's swimsuits

Bright colours and animal prints are still in-style this summer, but the suits are getting smaller and smaller

By KELCI NICODEMUS

The days are getting longer and the shorts are getting shorter.

Swimwear trends are staying the same or similar this season, with neon colours, animal and floral prints, and bohemian crochet looks dominating the fashion scene.

Anna Kosturova, a local swimwear designer, said trends from a year or two ago are still going strong in popularity, and that no particular style is trending this season.

“There are so many different people out there that they just stick with [their own] look,” she said.

Kosturova’s designs are solely crochet inspired, but she said she supplies a variety of different trends.

“It’s a strong look,” said Kosturova.

Tribal prints have also been big in fashion this year, according to Kosturova.

“Anything that inspires travel around the world,” she said.

Another hot style is lingerie-type looks, and according to Kosturova, the only big change from last year’s trends is there is less coverage in swimsuits.

“Bathing suits are definitely getting skimpier and skimpier,” said Kosturova.

But Kosturova isn’t complaining about the not-so covered looks coming up this season, she said they are more flattering.

“I hate full coverage. It just make the butt look bigger,” she said.

Eden Rousch, designer of Cuche Bikinis, agreed that swimsuits are definitely getting smaller and smaller.

“There’s a lot more skin this year,” said Rousch, who also says it would be hard to find designers now a days, who use more fabric.

According to Rousch, swimsuit styles in women are “really girly” this year.

Photographic prints are a popular trend right now, Rousch said.

“Like a one piece suit with a bear on it, or something,” says Rousch.

Rousch and Kosturova both agreed that colour blocking is a strong trend in swimwear this season.

“Using neutral colours and hitting block patterns of florescent, you see that in everything,” Rousch said.

As for men’s swimwear styles, trends are generally staying the same, said Rousch.

Bouldering climbs to new heights

There is a new way for Vancouverites to climb indoors, and it is done without ropes or a harness

By NIALL SHANNON

Fred Villarosa grips onto the wall high in the air. He has no gear, no rope or harness to keep him secure so high above. With the utmost concentration, Villarosa looks left and right and gingerly reaches out for the nearest ledge.

Villarosa is in the middle of bouldering, a high action sport that involves rock climbing without a harness or ropes. While bouldering can be done

outside, the sport is growing with a number of indoor climbing gyms, where boulderers climb with the luxury of safety pads.

“[Bouldering] is a lot of fun, you get to meet new people and get a good workout too. After an hour I’m exhausted,” said Villarosa, who has been bouldering for over a year alongside friend and spotting partner Michelle Nguyen.

Villarosa and Nguyen got into bouldering after a mutual friend who was into climbing told them about the thrill of bouldering.

The pair frequent the Hive indoor climbing gym, which is the only bouldering gym in Vancouver.

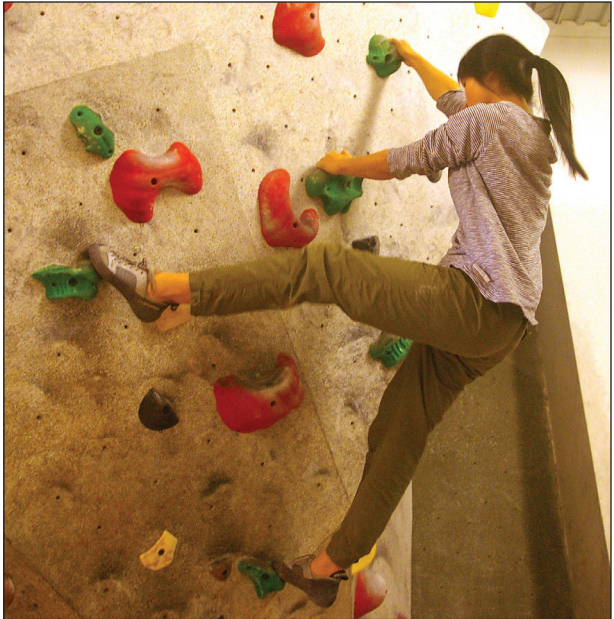
The Hive was started last March and is already at its 2,000 member limit.

“It can be dangerous, you know, you have nothing to secure you,” said Nguyen. “You need to know how to fall properly because otherwise you could pop out your shoulder.”

Though there is an element of risk, Nguyen said the benefits far outweigh the dangers. These include a good, fun workout with the chance to meet new people, according to Nguyen. “If I was single, I would go here to pick up people,” said Nguyen with a grin.

Scott Zacharias, a business consultant, loves the chance to do a sport with his daughter Brielle, and said it is the best kind of workout possible.

Zacharias is a decade-long fan of bouldering and climbs four to six hours a week at the Coastal Climbing Centre in Surrey.



NIALL SHANNON photo
Michelle Nguyen finds a thrill in climbing without a rope.

Langara needs more pop-ups to showcase student art

College students put forth a strenuous effort in earning their degrees – it is in the students and the schools best interest to help graduates promote their accomplishments.

Be it for graduate recognition or a semester wrap-up, more effort should be generated in exposing student achievement and work ethic within the college.



OPINION
JACQUIE LANGEN

The Langara Design Formation graduates, class of 2013, will be hosting their end of term showcase from April 11 – 19 displaying their cumulative work throughout their time in the program.

The event makes the advance to invite anyone interested in viewing the student’s work or curious about the program to join. It may also a great way for the students to meet prospective contacts for the future.

The showcasing of their time and effort is well deserved. These students are consumed with their work, and being in a visual design program, their projects and hard work deserved to be viewed – and recognized.

Not only does the initiative give the students exposure, it also gives the college a chance to demonstrate first hand what programs are offered at the college.

Schools can distribute brochures in attempts to promote and inform potential students about the studies offered; however, what people can really benefit from knowing is to learn about the student’s experience within their time spent in any given program.

If a school takes the step to demonstrate a student’s ability, not only will it benefit the student’s time and effort, it will also be a step forward for the institution’s credibility.

Furthermore, if a student is aware that their work will be on display or the topic of conversation, they may be more energized to better succeed throughout the term.

The idea of incorporating more recognition events is definitely a situation that could be improved throughout Langara.

NORTH KOREA I WANT YOU



TO COME AT ME

BRO

designed by NIAL SHANNON

Climate change requires action

Candidates in the upcoming election need to take clearer positions on where they stand when it comes to climate change and the environment.

The incessant demand for fossil fuels and the profit that drives it is creating environmental destruction the likes of which have never been seen before.

We are at the precipice of catastrophe.

B.C. is at the epicenter of one of the most disastrous enterprises of the worldwide economy. The Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline is of course hugely controversial.

At the public hearing held in



OPINION
SIMONE PFEIFFER

Vancouver, speaker after speaker spoke out against the pipeline.

Recent spills have only confirmed the dangers posed by transporting toxic oil across land and water.

At the end of March, a frozen pipeline near Fort McMurray burst, allowing contaminated waste-water to leak into the Athabasca river.

On a larger scale, there’s the 2010 BP oil spill on the gulf coast which is still poisoning the water and killing aquatic life.

Now, fracking, or natural gas extraction from shale rock, is increasing the risk of even greater environmental damage

We are short-changing our children and grandchildren with our addiction to non-renewable fossil fuels and we are destroying the quality of our air and water to do it.

There’s no room for half-measures in this debate: we need to know where our politicians stand and for them to take action.

LETTERS to the editor

I just wanted to let you know that one of your Voice students spoke with me yesterday with regards to an article about immigration in the Vancouver area, and after some discussion I decided that I did not wish to be quoted in the article (as it seemed that she was deliberately looking for a negative slant) and said so. She went ahead and quoted (and named) me anyway, and I am uncomfortable with this having oc-

curred.

My best friend works in Langara Administration and contacted me this morning about having been mentioned in the article. When I told her that I’d retracted my comment she suggested I let you know.

I have spoken to [the reporter] about it and she brushed off my concerns, did not offer any apology, and told me that legally she’s allowed to print what I

Anarchy is not the answer

Downtown Eastside diner Save On Meats has chosen to fight fire with humour by replacing their storefront sandwich board that was stolen last month by anti-gentrification anarchists. The new sign is complete with a face cutout, allowing passersby to snap a picture with it in the same style the vandals posed with the original in a photo posted on an pro-anarchist news forum.



OPINION
HAILEY MCDONALD

Owner Mark Brand announced that for every photo taken with the sign and posted to social media, a breakfast would be donated to a resident at the nearby Rainer Hotel.

Brand is without a doubt utilizing gentrification with his savvy business initiatives. First, his idea to sell plastic tokens to patrons to be distributed to the less fortunate and traded in for breakfast sandwiches has fed many that may otherwise not get the luxury of a meal.

Now, Brand is using the misfortune of having his diner’s sign stolen by anarchic vandals by flipping it into an initiative to feed more hungry people.

In theory, the ideology behind the attacks on DTES’ businesses would make sense if it weren’t so tastelessly executed.

While gentrification in some instances can displace impoverished people and cause a plethora of classist issues, Save On Meats seems to be trying to develop their business in a different way.

While Brand is using the opportunity to raise awareness about his restaurant, he’s also using the spotlight to bring attention to the impoverished residents of Canada’s “poorest postal code.”

Instead of going after guys like Brand who are trying to make money while helping the less-fortunate, anti-gentrification vandals should be more focused on multi-million dollar businesses within blocks of the DTES who have showed little mercy for the impoverished residents.

Save On Meats is trying to do a good thing here by implementing initiatives to help the community they’ve assimilated into.

Perhaps if they mimicked other, more successful, franchised businesses who show public regard for the struggles of DTES’ residents, masked vandals would leave them alone.

theVoice

The Voice is published by Langara College’s journalism department.

Editorial opinions are those of the staff and are independent of views of the student government and administration.

We welcome letters to the editor. All letters must be signed. They may be edited for brevity. Names may be withheld in special cases, but your letter must include your name and phone number.

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We want to hear from you

Did we get a fact wrong?
Tell us.

Got a different point of view?
Write to us.

Problems with something we've said?
Let us know.

**Journalism instructor
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B.C. needs amateur coaches

Lack of incentives and high commitment level too much, says report

By GARIN FAHLMAN

Carmen Bremen is a Royal Bank call centre manager who coaches her daughter's basketball team because no one else will do it.

There are not enough amateur sports coaches in B.C. due to a lack of incentives and the high level of commitment, according to a report by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage.

"It's a lot of time. Teachers now don't want to give their time. You need to put in lots of energy into developing a team," she said.

"You can't expect much compensation, you just have to have a love of the sport."

Being an amateur coach is a volunteer position and there can be many up-front expenses over a season, such as gas and travel.

Ross Tomlinson, sport performance

manager for Basketball BC, says that's one of the major things stopping a lot of teachers from coaching.

"It's not even a situation where they just want to get paid, but people don't want a lot of out-of-pocket expenses when they are giving up so much of their time."

Tomlinson says even at the college level, where coaches do get paid, many leave for provinces where they are guaranteed more.

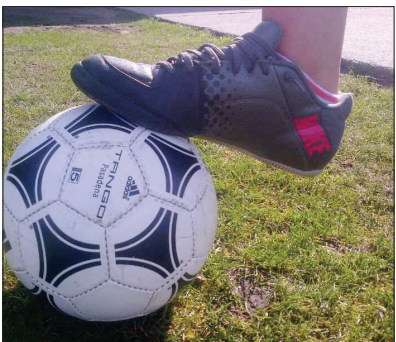
"I can think of four names off the top of my head, without even thinking, who have left to Alberta to coach," Tomlinson said. "Wait, now I've thought of five."

In the U.S., high school coaching positions are paid. "The government needs to change their relationship with teachers," said Tomlinson. "Eighteen years ago, physical education became compulsory in schools, so there have been less teachers since."

Bremen has been coaching since

1992 and agrees that the government should be doing more, and that budget cuts are counter-productive to the problem.

She coaches because she cares about the quality of her children's physical education, but she wants to see a day where coaches don't need a child in the game to want to coach in B.C.



ANGIE HOLUBOWICH photo
Langara athlete Katarina Tomic.

“
It's not even a situation where they just want to get paid, but people don't want a lot of out-of-pocket expenses.

CARMEN BREMEN
COACH

Vimy Ridge vets honoured next week

Vimy Ridge, an important point in Canadian history, will be remembered at Victory Square in Vancouver

By JAMES MCLAUGHLIN
and KEVIN HAMPSON

At dawn on April 9, 1917, thousands of young Canadian men ran up Vimy Ridge. Three days later, one of Germany's key strategic strongholds would be defeated. One hundred thousand Canadians fought in the battle and 3,598 died.

A commemoration of the battle is taking place next Tuesday at Victory Square.

Vimy Ridge Day was enacted as a result of a bill introduced in 2003 by then-Liberal MP Brent St. Denis. Since then, the Canadian flag on top of the Parliament Buildings' Peace Tower to half-mast every April 9.

As St. Denis' legislation explains, the famous "Battle of Vimy Ridge is considered by many to be a turning point for our country and the beginning of Canada's march towards nationhood."

Instructor of recreation studies at Langara, Vince Kreiser, is a war history buff and former cadet whose grandfather served in the First World War.

Kreiser believes war memorials serve an important purpose when they're done well. "You want to honour people who've gone through that and you think, maybe we don't want to go through that again," said Kreiser.

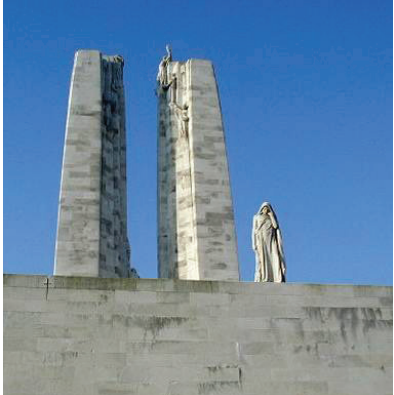
Although skeptical of commemorations with a high price tag attached, Kreiser is not opposed to the Vimy Ridge memorials. They should poignantly call to mind the experience of the war and they should tell the story appropriately, he said.

Wendy Nelson, the chair of Langara's political science and history departments, is apprehensive about the intention of war commemorations.

"Commemorating war and battles, to me, is not the most enlightened way of creating a sense of national identity," says Nelson. "I think they're often a perverted attempt to create a sense of unity where often the unity should come from other things."

"It's a bit like the War of 1812 stuff that [the federal government is] doing now, saying that that war brought us together as Canadians. I just don't buy that. It's just not historically accurate. I think that it's a manipulation of history."

John Babcock, Canada's last First World War vet, died in 2010 at the age of 109.



Flickr photo
The Canadian National Vimy Memorial on Vimy Ridge, France.



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS photo

A black bear enjoying a suburban snack on a sunny day might look harmless but could pose a threat to unsuspecting passersby.

Experts blame humans for bear deaths

Bears are waking up from their hibernation and looking for their first food of the year and wildlife officials say taking simple precautions can make all the difference

By HAILEY MCDONALD

Winter is coming to a close and bear season is upon us.

Wildlife experts are reminding residents in known bear-infested areas like North Vancouver to take extra precautions to avoid run-ins with our furry friends.

Bears have become more domesticated in the past decade, resulting in more contact with humans in the urban settings.

But conservation officers say that people can reduce the threat of bears by taking a few simple security steps.

"We're getting into that time of year where all the bears will be waking up and searching for that first bit of food so it's really important that people around their homes take extra precaution," said Frank Ritcey, Provincial Bear Aware Co-ordinator.

Ritcey said that waste management is the most important precaution that homeowners can take to avoid bear scares.

"That means keeping it indoors until the day of the pickup or having it in a place that's inaccessible to the wildlife."

He said that bears rummaging through unprotected garbage bins account for over 50 per cent of the calls that conservation officers receive.

"If we looked after that, we'd have a lot fewer problems with the bears."

Christine Miller, education co-ordinator for the North Shore Black Bear Society said there have been a few bear sightings in recent months.

She gave homeowners similar advice about locking up garbage cans and not leaving birdfeeders out during the spring.

Between April 2012 and Feb. 2013,

conservation officers received 2,393 calls regarding black bear incidents. Out of those, officers killed 436 of those bears.

However, Miller said that only seven bears on average are destroyed per year.

"It's the people's fault usually that the bears have to be destroyed. So we support the conversation officers. They make the determination when the bear is eating unnatural foods," she said.

The North Shore Black Bear Society acts to educate residents on black bear safety.

Miller said she takes a proactive, instead of reactive, approach about educating the public on wildlife concerns.

To report a wildlife incident, Miller encourages the public to call the Conservation Officer Service.

They can be reached at 1-877-952-7277.

SAFETY precautions

- 1 Consider purchasing a bear-resistant container for waste
- 2 Don't let fruit and berries accumulate on the ground. Pick regularly.
- 3 Use bird feeders only in the winter when bears are hibernating and natural bird food is limited.
- 4 Clean barbecues by burning off the grill, removing and cleaning the grease trap after each use.

Source: bearaware.bc.ca

Pavel Bure back in Vancouver

Controversial former Canuck lends his name to children's charity

By BRIAN HORSTEAD

Pavel "The Russian Rocket" Bure is in Vancouver to participate in the Canucks for Kids Fund Telethon, and to participate in a special event with Canucks team owner Francesco Aquilini.

Bure said at a press conference Thursday, he and Aquilini had spoken at Bure's Hockey Hall of Fame induction.

"I came because Francesco called and asked me to come to his special event which is going to be tomorrow night," Bure said.

"Francesco showed me great respect when he came to see me during the Hall of Fame induction."

One of the topics covered was whether or not Bure would be retiring his No. 10 Canucks jersey, but Bure was tight lipped on the details.

"I had some discussions with Francesco and talked about potential plans," Bure said.

"We have some ideas, but I'm going to leave it to Francesco to share those details."

Were his jersey to be retired, Bure admits it would be a "huge honour" to have it hung next to Canucks legends Kirk McLean and Trevor Linden.

Bure also spoke about how he divides his time between homes in Moscow, Europe and Florida.

He and wife, model Alina Khasanova, are expecting a boy in the next few weeks.

Bure began his NHL career in the 1991-92 season playing for the Canucks and winning the Calder Memorial Trophy.

The trophy is awarded to the league's most promising rookie.

Bure was traded to the Florida Panthers in 1999, six years after his first request for a trade, and said at the time it was in response to neglect from the Canucks management and had nothing to do with Vancouver or the fans.



PAVEL BURE
At press conference Thursday



Hockey News photo

Pavel Bure was in his heyday as a Vancouver Canuck in the early 1990s. Over the course of his career Bure scored 437 goals and 779 points. On Thursday he was back in the city to announce that he would be lending his name to the Canucks for Kids Telethon.

BURE'S top five

HIS BEST MOMENTS AS A CANUCK

■ first goal, Nov. 12, 1991

*first shift, 1991, two breakaways

■ wins the Calder, 1992

■ elbow to Dallas Stars' Shane Churla, 1994

■ game seven OT vs, Flames 1994

Source: The Voice Fan survey

Local golfers have many cheap options

The weather may not show it today, but spring is here. With golf season set to begin here's where to tee off

By KAYLA ISOMURA

Golf season will soon be in full swing in the Lower Mainland.

Taking into consideration the greens, size and location of courses, Vancouverites have several public courses to choose from.

"Because of the best weather," golf season typically runs between June and September, said golf professional Andrew Smeeth at Langara Golf Course.

He recommends any three of the Vancouver Parks and Recreation courses.

The city's courses include Langara, McCleery Golf Course and Fraserview Golf Course.

"McCleery and Fraserview are two other great courses as well," he said. Compared to the Langara course, "the other courses are a little bit longer and more challenging."

They also have more drainage in the winter and practice facilities, he said but "Langara is a great course for what it is."

Avid golfer and member of the UBC Golf Club, Tejbir Wason, agreed with Smeeth.

From a students' perspective, Wason recommends Langara and University Golf Club (UGC) near UBC to anyone on a budget because of the green fees.

UBC Golf Club members are eligible to play at UGC and the Musqueam Golf and Learning Centre at discounted rates.

Membership is also open to UBC and non-UBC students at a membership fee between \$10 and \$15, according to their website.

When not golfing at Langara or UGC, Wason will choose to golf at McCleery as another public option or Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club for a private experience.

Wason said he prefers to golf at longer courses and ones that are "well-maintained," however course preference depends on personal preference and "according to skill" he said.

Smeeth said green fees increase during the summertime.

At Langara, fees are currently \$36.75 for 18 holes. At McCleery's, the fee is \$40, and the fee at Fraserview is \$45.

Specific summer rates could not be confirmed for the city park courses, however UGC said their current fees will increase from \$45 to upwards of \$69 in the summer.



KAYLA ISOMURA photo

Andrew Smeeth is a golf professional at the Langara Golf Course who can't wait for the season to begin.

Young fans split over Luongo's value



POST MEDIA photo

Roberto Luongo in goal for the Canucks. The goalie has been the subject of trade rumours for months, but as of this week, he remains an unhappy Vancouver Canuck.

Surrey high school hockey fans dish about Canuck's goaltending situation

By WARREN JANÉ

Should Roberto Luongo stay or go? After much speculation and anticipation of the trade deadline, the verdict is in.

Vancouver Canucks general manager Mike Gillis has decided to keep Roberto Luongo on as a backup goalie to Cory Schneider and most of the next generation of fans at Guildford Park Secondary School in Surrey are satisfied with the decision.

"I think it's OK," said Michael Thain. "I think they're keeping two elite goalies, which is a smart idea."

Some think Luongo makes a good backup in case Schneider isn't able to perform under pressure.

"I like that because you never know if Schneider might screw up in the final or just spoil the game, so we need him just in case," said fellow student Justin Debos.

Others also believe Luongo belongs on backup.

"I think that's what they should do. He's a good goalie but he chokes under pressure too much," said Max Werring. "Cory would be a better choice in my opinion."

"[Luongo] hasn't been on top of his game lately and Schneider has been mostly on top of his game since last year," said Bradley John.

"We lost the cup because Luongo was in net, but he'd be OK for our backup goalie."

There were some critics however.

"I think that's not really a smart choice because lately he hasn't been playing his best," said Phoenix Zelasako.

"Luongo's a good goalie, but lately he hasn't really been doing his job," said Cody Small.

Luongo has nine seasons and more than \$40-million left on his 12-year deal, but can presumably still be traded for draft picks and prospects during the summer or at the draft itself.

He has expressed frustration with his current situation, telling reporters "My contract sucks."

Although there was some talk of Luongo being traded to Toronto, he won't be going anywhere for now.